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NEWTON ABBOT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1963



H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

6/8 SHERBORNE ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT

TELEPHONE No. : NEWTON ABBOT 2780

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1963.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1963, together with that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The Vital Statistics again show no material differences between the figures for this Rural District and those of the Administrative County of Devon. The 'crude' Birth and Death rates depend upon the actual numbers of births and deaths which have taken place during the year. The 'corrected' rates are the 'crude' rates modified by a factor worked out by the Registrar General. This takes into account the larger proportion of elderly persons in the Rural District.

Regarding the Infectious Diseases, this is the first year in which no cases of Whooping Cough have been notified. You will also notice the absence of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Typhoid, Para-Typhoid, Poliomyelitis, and the very low incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis. All these diseases are now under almost complete control and could be eliminated from the Country by the exercise of continued vigilance and a relatively small expenditure of money. Once again I urge all parents to see that their children are given the protection which is available, free of charge, through their Family Doctor or through the County Council Child Welfare Clinics and schools.

In a district such as this, with its high proportion of elderly persons, many cases are found where elderly people are living in very poor circumstances. The National Assistance Acts provide for the removal of persons in need of care and attention to Hospital or Welfare Homes, as necessary, but it is

obviously more advantageous that the necessary assistance should be provided in the person's home or that they should be admitted to Homes and Hospitals on a voluntary basis, than it is to have to use compulsory powers. Fortunately the need for compulsion was avoided during the year.

In October the South West Devon Water Board took over the responsibility of supplying water to the area, and already quite large schemes are being undertaken by the Board to effect improvements. The cost of a supply of pure water in relatively scattered Rural Districts is far greater than it is in the built up areas. The financial burden is now being spread more equally over the large area supplied by the South West Devon Water Board and in consequence large and expensive works are now being done in the District which would inevitably have been deferred by the Council if the entire cost were to have fallen to them.

Over the past 2 - 3 years increasing pressure has been brought on the Council by the Devon River Board regarding the unsatisfactory effluent from some of the Sewage Disposal Works in the District. Many of these works have been overloaded for many years and their efficiency has, therefore, become impaired. The Council has schemes for the renewal of many of these disposal plants, but it will not be before many years have passed, and many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent, that this work will be completed.

Very long periods of time elapse between the consideration of a new sewerage scheme and its completion, even when the work is entirely within the boundaries of the Rural District. When the Council has to negotiate with neighbouring Local Authorities progress has been so slow as to be almost non-existent. It would appear that from the Rural District's point of view much would be gained if this service were to be taken over by a Regional Drainage Board, or better still, that the South West Devon Water Board should increase its scope by undertaking both of these essential services.

I should like to thank, once again, the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received.


I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

M. J. Davis

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1964.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres).....	92,647
Population Mid 1963.....	26,660
Population 1961 Census.....	25,961
Population Administrative County of Devon.....	543,270
Rateable Value as at 1st. January 1963.....	£284,049
Rateable Value as at 31st. December 1963.....	£722,384
Product of 1d. rate as at 31st. March 1963.....	£2,873

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	189	176	365
Illegitimate	14	12	26
	<hr/> 203 <hr/>	<hr/> 188 <hr/>	<hr/> 391 <hr/>

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	14.67
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	17.60
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.91
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	17.89
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	18.2

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	1	1

Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	17.6
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon	16.87
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	17.2

Deaths

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 70.67 years. The average age of all male deaths was 69.31 years and for female deaths 72.33 years.

	Male	Female	Total
	217	183	400
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			15.00
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			11.25
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			15.54
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			11.66
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			12.2

Infant Mortality

(Death of Infants under One Year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 related live births			12.79
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			18.77
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			21.1

Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four Weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1000 related live births			7.67
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			13.58
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			14.2

Peri-Natal Mortality
Death of Infants under One Week)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Peri-Natal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and death of Infants under One week) per 1000 live and still births			23.02
Peri-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			28.53
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			29.3

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the Newton Abbot Rural District during 1963. Two maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Infants under four weeks	2	1
Infants four weeks to one year	2	-
1 - 5	1	-
5 - 14	1	1
15 - 24	1	1
25 - 34	-	4
35 - 44	3	3
45 - 54	8	12
55 - 64	44	20
65 - 74	68	42
75 and over	87	99
	<hr/> 217 <hr/>	<hr/> 183 <hr/>

Total: 400

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	<u>Female</u>
All causes	217	183
Syphilitic Disease	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	-
Diabetes	-	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	43
Coronary disease, angina	49	28
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4
Other heart disease	35	33
Other circulatory disease	5	7
Influenza	-	4
Pneumonia	14	5
Bronchitis	12	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
Congenital malformations	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	14
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
All other accidents	3	4
Suicide	1	2
	<hr/> 217 <hr/>	<hr/> 183 <hr/>

Total: 400

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Measles	113	152	265
Pneumonia	—	1	1
	<hr/> 113 <hr/>	<hr/> 153 <hr/>	<hr/> 266 <hr/>

Total: 266

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of pulmonary and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1963. Details are set out in the following table:

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 - 14	—	—	—	1
15 - 24	1	—	—	—
25 - 44	—	—	—	—
45 - 64	—	—	—	1
65 and over	—	1	—	—
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

Total : 4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

In no case was official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 necessary during 1963.

A. R. SMITH, Cert. R.S.H. and P.H.I.J.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
R.S.H. Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Kingsteignton Road,
NEWTON ABBOT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

F O R T H E Y E A R

E N D I N G

31st DECEMBER, 1963.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my report on the administration of my Department for the year, 1963.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministries of Health, Housing and Local Government, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the necessary Tables and Statistics have been included in the report, together with the progress made in the important work of Housing and Food Hygiene.

The year under review has once again proved very satisfying inasmuch as work has progressed satisfactorily in the various duties the Department is called upon to carry out.

On the 1st October, 1963, the Meat Inspection Regulations, which replaced, with amendments, the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924 to 1952, came into force and made it obligatory on Local Authorities to carry out a full meat inspection service. In order that the Council could discharge its duties competently an Additional Public Health Inspector was appointed and commenced duties at the latter end of the year. With one full-time abattoir and seven other private slaughterhouses in the Rural District with a total annual kill of 20,518 animals to be inspected, the amount of work involved can readily be appreciated and it is gratifying to be able to report that a 100% meat inspection service has been maintained. In practical terms this entailed some 1,853 visits to the eight slaughterhouses and in addition to normal office hours, duties involved approximately 589 hours' overtime by the Inspectors during the year.

Refuse collection schedules were overhauled and the frequency of collection has been improved in several areas. All the vehicles have been in constant use and it is obvious that with the increase in the amount of refuse collected an additional vehicle is an absolute necessity. The area of tipping space in respect of which planning approval has been given is almost exhausted and further approval is being sought.

I would like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, Members of the Staff and of the Public Health Committee for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A.R. Smith.

Chief Public Health Inspector

September, 1964.

Sanitary Inspection of the District

The approximate number of verbal complaints received in the Department during the year was two hundred and seventy-five, whilst written complaints received numbered one hundred and eighty-two.

The total number of letters received by the Department was six hundred and seventy-eight and the number of letters despatched was one thousand, one hundred and fifty.

Informal Notices and Letters Served

Public Health Acts	98
Housing Acts	137
Food and Drugs Act	55
Food Hygiene Regulations	127
Refuse Disposal	148
Caravan Sites	80
Water Supplies	38
Rodent Control	18
General Matters	449
Total	<u>1,150</u>

Summaries of Public Health Inspectors' Visits

T A B L E I

General Sanitation

Water Supplies and Sampling	314
Drainage	553
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	53
Caravan and Camping Sites	372
Refuse Collection and Disposal matters	597
Rodent and Pest Control	588
Sewage Disposal Works and Sewers	201
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	53
Factory Act Legislation	41
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	159
Interviews in District	262
Total	<u>3,193</u>

T A B L E II

Housing Visits and Inspections

<u>Under Public Health Acts</u>		
	Number of houses inspected	124
	Revisits	98
<u>Under Housing Acts</u>		
	Number of houses inspected	329
	Other visits	400
<u>Overcrowding</u>		
	Number of houses inspected	20
	Revisits	5
<u>Verminous Premises</u>		
	Number of houses inspected	29
	Revisits	17
	Miscellaneous Housing Visits	140
	Total	<u>1,162</u>

Housing Matters

The work of carrying out the inspection of dwelling houses within the Rural District continued throughout the year.

At the end of the year there was a total of three hundred and six houses on the Council's List of Sub-Standard Dwellings. During this period, thirty-two houses were made fit for human habitation; whilst ten were demolished and twenty were pending demolition. In addition, sixteen families were re-housed, twelve privately and four by the Council.

A total of one thousand, one hundred and sixty-two visits and inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors in respect of housing matters generally.

T A B L E I I I

FOOD PREMISES - VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Inspection of Meat

Visits to Slaughterhouses	1,853
Visits to other premises	138

Inspection of Premises

Slaughterhouses	65
Butchers' Shops	72
Bakehouses	34
Grocers' Shops	71
Market Stalls and Food Vans etc.	16
Ice-Cream Premises	13
Food Preparing Premises, Cafes, Hotels, etc.	364
Bed and Breakfast Premises	55
Licenced Premises	114
Holiday Camps, Clubs, etc.	23

Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits

Miscellaneous Food Visits	129
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Total	<u><u>2,983</u></u>
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Totals of TABLES I, II and III	<u><u>7,338</u></u>
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Food Inspection

During the course of the year the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

2 x 7 lbs.	Tins Lemon Curd
16 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.	Dutch Tomatoes
1	Tin Ambrosia Rice
1	Tin Tomatoes
1	Tin Apricots
1	Tin Grapefruit
15 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Boned Ham
2 x $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Tins Corned Beef
1	Tin Pork Luncheon Meat

Water Supplies

Water Samples taken during the year	253
Samples equal to Class I piped supply	203
Samples showing contamination in some degree	50

Caravan Sites

The implementation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, continued its demands throughout the period under review, necessitating a total of three hundred and seventy-two visits and inspections by the Public Health Inspectors, together with a great deal of office and administrative work.

There were seventy-five licenced caravan sites within the District during the year, of which forty-seven were for Residential use only, twenty-two for holiday caravans only and six mixed sites.

The seventy-five sites provided accommodation for some nine hundred and seventy caravans and approximately three hundred and forty-three families were permanently residing on these sites during the year.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

(a) Slaughterhouses

Once again I have pleasure in reporting that the standard of hygiene in the eight slaughterhouses situated within the Rural District was very well maintained throughout the year.

(b) Meat Inspection

As mentioned in my introductory notes to this report, 1st October saw the commencement of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. When one reflects that as far back as 1921 a Departmental Committee was set up to consider and report upon the Legislative and Administrative Measures necessary to secure adequate protection for the health of the people in connection with the Slaughter of Animals and Distribution of Meat for human consumption in England and Wales it would seem such Regulations were long overdue.

As a whole, the Regulations are certainly excellent but one cannot help but feel that the routine detailed inspection laid down is in many instances unnecessarily burdensome on Inspectors. Indeed, in some cases they are proving to be impracticable.

As regards hours of slaughtering, although pressed very hard by local government representative bodies, the Ministries concerned finally did not think it expedient to control such hours, consequently an untenable position is retained wherein so long as proper notification is made slaughtering can virtually take place twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

One can only hope that in the not too distant future the Ministries responsible will have second thoughts on this matter.

T A B L E I V

CARCASES INSPECTED - NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1963

	CATTLE	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTALS
NO. KILLED	2,461	124	264	13,153	4,516	20,518
NO. INSPECTED	2,461	124	264	13,153	4,516	20,518
All diseases other than Tuberculosis						
(i) Whole carcase condemned	4	21	14	45	6	90
(ii) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	248	47	-	404	123	822
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	10.24%	58.84%	5.30%	3.41%	2.85%	4.44%
Tuberculosis only						
(i) Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
(ii) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	59	59
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.30%	0.80% (Excluding Sheep)
Cysticercus Bovis	24	1	-	-	-	25 (0.96%)

T A B L E V

CARCASES TOTALLY REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1963

DISEASE OR CONDITION	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTALS
Acetonaemia	-	1	-	1	-	2
Bruising - General	1	1	-	4	-	6
Degenerative Changes	-	2	-	3	1	6
Dropsy - General	-	1	-	2	-	3
Emaciation - Pathological	1	1	1	14	-	17
Fever - Acute	-	5	1	3	-	9
Immaturity	-	-	3	-	-	3
Inefficient Bleeding	-	4	-	4	-	8
Joint-ill	-	-	3	-	-	3
Peritonitis - Acute Septic	1	2	-	4	1	8
Pericarditis - Acute Septic	-	1	1	-	-	2
Pleurisy - Acute Septic	-	-	-	3	-	3
Pneumonia - Acute Septic	-	1	1	7	1	10
Pyæmia	1	2	3	-	2	8
Septicaemia	-	-	1	-	1	2
TOTALS	4	21	14	45	6	90

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The amount of refuse which has to be collected from domestic premises continues to increase week by week, frequently an additional lorry has to be used to enable the work, in the particular area being cleared, to be carried out on the day appointed as per schedule.

The number of houses is, of course, increasing throughout the area and this fact, coupled with the present day tendency to wrap everything in paper, cartons, tins, jars or cellophane, produces an exceptionally bulky load from most areas. It is not possible in many cases for householders to burn combustible matter but great quantities of paper, cardboard and cartons are burnt under control at the Refuse Tip.

Requests have again been made for improved collection arrangements of a more frequent rotation and as this is the affirmed policy of the Council every endeavour is made to bring about improvements. Our "stand-by" refuse vehicle has been in use throughout the year and the need is such that when a new vehicle is provided the older fleet which has, admittedly, been well maintained will need to be retained for use to meet increased demands.

Operational Statistics are given below, 1963/64

Area of District	92,650 Acres
Population at 30th June, 1963	26,660 Persons
Total Refuse Collected (Estimated)	14,600 Tons
Weight in cwts. per 1,000 of population per day (365 days per year)	29.985 Cwts.
Number of Premises from which Refuse is Collected	8,800 Premises
Number of Premises from which Collection is made <u>at least once per week</u>	75%
Average Haul (Single Journey)	12 Miles
Kerbside Collection expressed as an estimated percentage of Total Collection	100%
Total Refuse Disposed of	14,600 Tons
Number of Collection Areas	50
Weekly Collections (Urbanised Areas)	6 Areas
Fortnightly Collection	20 Areas
Monthly Collection	16 Areas
Quarterly Collection	8 Areas

Refuse Collection and Disposal (Continued)

Disposal by controlled tipping is reasonably cheap when compared with mechanical destruction methods. It is very satisfactory providing it is possible for the work to be carried out in the approved manner which means efficient consolidation and adequately covered surfaces.

Fly infestation, even when reduced to a minimum at the Dump, presents an ever recurring problem as these pests are literally brought in with the refuse from all the points of collection. All householders would do well to bear in mind that a properly constructed refuse bin with tightly fitting lid should be provided by them and, furthermore, that all refuse should be packed tightly and kept dry, all tins and bottles should be washed out before being placed in the refuse bin.

The whole tip is regularly treated to control any rodent infestation and is, in fact, sprayed throughout the working day to combat the fly menace. Spraying is also carried out at week-ends and also during any holiday period.

An Industrial Development Agency continues to press for an option on an area of 200,000 or 300,000 square feet as a possible site for the construction of a factory or factories.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control

All the Sewerage Schemes throughout the Rural District have been test-baited and those found infested have received two maintenance treatments. Results have proved that the work has achieved the intended object, the whole operation being most satisfactory. In addition, of course, all Sewage Disposal Works are regularly surveyed and the necessary treatments are carried out. The same remarks apply to the Council's Refuse Tip. It is gratifying to note that the work and efforts of the Operator has prevented any major infestation.

Agricultural properties found to be in need of attention are, in most instances, dealt with by a private contractor although, on occasions the owner carries out the work himself. My Operator re-visits the premises to ensure that the Act has been complied with.

The Divisional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has written me expressing the Ministry's satisfaction regarding the year's work and our Operator has been complimented by the Ministry on the manner in which he has carried out his duties. The number of treatments carried out, apart from those in connection with sewer maintenance and refuse tips, was 1,620.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

1.	<u>Inspections</u>	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i.	Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	22	16	4	-
ii.	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	99	23	-	-
iii.	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	20	2	-	-

2.	<u>Cases in which defects were found</u>	Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Insp.	Ref. by H.M. Insp.	Prosecution
	<u>No. of cases in which defects were found:-</u>					
	Want of cleanliness (S1)	2	2	-	2	-
	Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
	Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
	Inadequate ventilation(S4)	3	3	-	2	-
	Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	1	1	-	-	-
	Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
	(a) insufficient	2	2	-	1.	-
	(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
	(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
	Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-

